

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5 and 9-12 stand rejected. Claims 4, 6-8 and 13 stand objected to. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 9 have been amended. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 6-8 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,407,791 to Suzuki et al. for the reasons stated on page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 9 as amended now recite, *inter alia*, "a metallic piece formed of the same layer as the gate wire and placed under the direction control electrode, wherein the metallic piece substantially coincides with the configuration of the direction control electrode". Applicants' disclosure states that the metallic piece reduces the distance between the direction control electrode and the common electrode to increase the capacitance, and makes domains more stable. See e.g., Applicants' disclosure at lines 5-10 of page 16.

It is respectfully submitted that Suzuki does not disclose or suggest a metallic piece formed of the same layer as the gate wire, much less a metallic piece formed of the same layer as the gate wire and substantially coinciding with the configuration of the direction control electrode. Suzuki is directed to a multi-domain liquid crystal device comprising a pixel electrode having an aperture section. However, as acknowledged by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action, Suzuki does not disclose or suggest a metallic piece formed of the same layer as the gate wire and substantially coinciding with the configuration of the direction control electrode.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 9 are not anticipated by Suzuki for at least the above reasons.

With respect to claim 3, to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 7 into claim 3. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 3 is not anticipated by Suzuki.

Claims 2, 5, and 10-12 depend from claims 1, 3 and 9, respectively. Claims 2, 5, and 10-12 are allowable for at least the reasons provided for the respective base claims.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) and that claims 1-3, 5 and 9-12 are in condition for allowance.

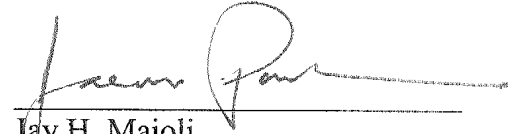
Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that this amendment raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search because the subject matter of the present amendments had been previously considered in the form of dependent claim 8.

New Claim

Applicants have also rewritten allowable claim 6 in independent form as new claim 14.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application, including claims 1-6 and 8-14, is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if he has any questions or comments in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli", is written over a horizontal line.

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